

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

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HINCHEY TO TRAVEL TO PERSIAN GULF, MIDDLE EAST

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-22) on Saturday will fly to Doha, Qatar, where he expects to meet with the commander of U.S. forces and American soldiers. Following the four-day trip to Qatar, Hinchey will travel to Jordan, Bahrain and Israel for meetings with officials of those countries and of the Palestinian Authority (PA).

"The main thing I would like to accomplish with this trip to Qatar is to get a better sense from the military personnel on the ground of what lies ahead in Iraq," said Hinchey. "It's important to have a first-hand assessment of the situation now that it appears the major fighting is over."

Hinchey and his congressional colleagues have asked to meet with General Tommy Franks and other high-ranking military officials while in Doha, as well as with rank-and-file troops. He is particularly hopeful for the opportunity to meet troops from New York State. He will also attend the Third Qatar Conference on Democracy and Free Trade. Eleven other members of Congress, including six other Democrats and five Republicans, will also attend the conference.

On Tuesday, Hinchey, along with U.S. Reps. Nick Rahall (WV-03) and Darrell Issa (CA-49), will fly to Bahrain before traveling to Jordan on Wednesday. In Jordan they are scheduled to meet with King Abdullah, Foreign Minister Marwan Muasher and U.S. Ambassador Edward Gnehm. Following the meetings they will leave for Israel. Numerous appointments are being arranged with Palestinian and Israeli officials for Thursday, including a meeting with the PA's new Prime Minister, Abu Mazen. Hinchey will depart from Israel on Thursday evening.